

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows, using the paragraph numbers of the published PCT International Publication Number WO 02/098816 A1:

Please replace paragraph [0017] with the following paragraph:

[0017] The first component (a) is a hydrocarbon wax. The hydrocarbon wax component may comprise any wax known in the field of gypsum slurry emulsions. Generally, the wax component of the invention comprises a petroleum fraction wax, either microcrystalline or paraffin. In the preferred embodiment the hydrocarbon wax component (a) is paraffin wax. However waxes such as [carnuba] carnauba wax, polyethylene wax, maleated [hydrocarbons] hydrocarbon waxes, and combinations thereof may be used as well. The hydrocarbon wax used may also be a synthetic wax ester or an acid wax.

Please replace paragraph [0027] with the following paragraph:

[0027] [Comparative] Inventive sample **A**: 8 parts of a maleic anhydride graft polymer (Ceramer® 67 manufactured by Baker Petrolite) was added to 100 parts of paraffin wax in a molten state. The blended wax was then dispersed in an alkaline solution of polyvinyl alcohol using a high-speed mixer. The resulting emulsion was quickly cooled to a temperature below 30 degrees Celsius.

Please replace paragraph [0031] with the following paragraph:

[0031] The above-mentioned emulsions were individually mixed into a slurry of calcium sulphate hemi-hydrate at a ratio of 3 parts emulsion to 100 parts hemi-hydrate gypsum. The resulting mixture, was set in the form of pucks of ½" thickness and approximately 2½" to 3" diameter. The pucks were heated to dryness in a convection oven, cooled overnight to ambient temperature, and then immersed in water for 2 hours. The

percentage of water absorbed by these samples is summarized in the following
[table]Table 1:

TABLE 1

| [COMPARATIVE] SAMPLE <u>DATA</u> | PERCENT OF INITIAL WEIGHT ABSORBED |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| A | 2.54% |
| B | 8.55% |
| C | 11.8% |
| D | 7.95% |